



October 25, 2022

F2022-07

TO: Network of California Fairs

SUBJECT: Fairground and Community Resilience Centers Funding

This letter is to provide you with an update regarding the Fairground and Community Resilience Centers program, the one-time General Fund allocation of \$150 million from the Budget Act of 2021. The goal of the allocation is to improve both local fairground and other community resilience centers to enhance the state's emergency preparedness capabilities, particularly in response to climate change. Elements for the infrastructure improvements may include cooling and heating centers, clean air centers, and extended emergency evacuation response centers with community kitchens, shower facilities, broadband, backup power, and other community needs due to wildfires, floods, and other emergencies or climate events.

The Fairs and Expositions Branch (F&E) has received the allocation (resiliency funds). As stated in the budget language, \$10 million was provided to the California Exposition and State Fair, \$38 million will be used toward a competitive application process for projects on other community centers, up to \$7.5 million may be used for administrative costs, and the remaining \$94.5 million will be used for resiliency projects solely on facilities within the Network of California Fairs. Of the \$94.5 million, CDFA has set aside \$5 million for the completion of up to 28 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) projects throughout the Network of California Fairs. The PSPS projects include a facility assessment and installation of automatic transfer switches and docking stations for backup power connections.

To begin the process of awarding the remaining \$89.5 million for fairgrounds, CDFA formed a committee with industry representatives to come up with criteria for selecting the fairgrounds. The committee included industry representatives from the California Fair Services Authority (CFSA), Western Fairs Association (WFA), California Construction Authority (CCA), California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

The criteria were carefully selected to align with the goal of the resiliency funds. The initial set of criteria included fairgrounds without physical property, fairgrounds with difficult accessibility, especially during emergency/evacuation events, fairgrounds in less climate resilient locations/fairgrounds at or below sea level, fairgrounds with property



size smaller than 33 acres, and fairgrounds not located in disadvantaged/severely disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, additional criteria included population reach, historical number of emergency/evacuation events served, and fairgrounds with past deferred maintenance (SB 5 and CS 6.10) projects. These criteria condensed the list to 15 fairgrounds:

Large Investments

- Northern Area – 3rd DAA Silver Dollar Fair
- Central Area – 24th DAA Tulare County Fair
- Central Area – 35th DAA Merced County Fair
- Southern Area – 28th DAA San Bernardino County Fair
- Southern Area – 50th DAA Antelope Valley Fair

Small/Extended Investments

- 4th DAA Sonoma-Marin Fair
- 10th DAA Siskiyou Golden Fair
- 12th DAA Redwood Empire Fair
- 13th DAA Yuba-Sutter Fair
- 18th DAA Eastern-Sierra Fair
- 24A DAA Kings Fair
- 26th DAA Amador County Fair
- 27th DAA Shasta District Fair
- 30th DAA Tehama District Fair
- Cal Expo

These selected fairgrounds were applied to a two-pronged approach: large investments and small/extended investments. The location of the fairgrounds is extremely important for the purpose of the resiliency funds; therefore, the large investments were selected on a regional basis: northern, central, and southern areas. The list of small/extended investments is a combination of fairgrounds that have potentially already received past deferred maintenance funding or need smaller improvements to make their facilities a resilient center. The list of 15 fairgrounds will undergo a facilities assessment to establish a scope of work, budget, and timeline which will assist in awarding the fairgrounds a portion of the allocation. The assessments do not guarantee that the fairgrounds listed above will be awarded funds. The fairgrounds and amounts awarded will be dependent on the information received through the assessments and the amount available for awarding. Once the assessments have been completed and submitted to F&E, F&E will review the assessments and announce to the industry the fairgrounds and amounts awarded.

Please note that there is still an opportunity to apply for the other community centers portion of the funding. For more information on the competitive application process and

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upcoming dates, please visit the Fairground and Community Resilience Centers [website](#).

If you have any questions/concerns regarding the Fairground and Community Resilience Centers program, please contact [Mike Francesconi](#) at (916) 900-5365.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Francesconi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mike Francesconi
Branch Chief